\$50,000, made by the last Congress for the improvement of the navigation of the Hudson river, has been withheld; and also, why some definite action has not been taken in reference

Mr. FULLER proposing to debate the resolution, it lies

SCHOOLS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA. Mr. FLAGLER submitted the following resolution

Mr. FLAGLER submitted the following resolution, which was disagreed to:

Resolved, That the Committee on Public Lands be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making a suitable grant of public lands to aid in the enlargement of the Eric Canal.

Mr. DRUM also submitted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Committee on Naval Affairs be instructed to inquire into the expediency of authorizing by law the Secretary of the Navy to equip and maintain three public vessels at the harbors of Boston, New York, and Norfolk, respectively, which may be promptly used by the Naval Department in the event of any disaster to our commercial marine, or of any other exigency requiring their aid. or of any other exigency requiring their aid.

Objection being made to the consideration of the reso lution, it lies over.

Mr. LHLLY submitted the following resolution, which

was disagreed to:

Resolved, That the Committee on Private Land Claims be instructed to inquire into the expediency of making a grant of land to James W. Marshall, the discoverer of gold in California, and report by bill or otherwise.

BILLS INTRODUCED. The following bills were introduced, read a first and second time by their titles, and referred to appropriate

By Mr. READY: A bill to amend the several acts of Congress allowing and continuing to widows of deceased officers and soldiers of the United States half-pay in certain cases for a specified time.

By Mr. MACE: A bill to divide the State of Indiana into two judicial districts, and to provide for holding circuit and district courts therein.

By Mr. LANE, of Indiana: A bill to extend the provisions of the pension and bounty land laws now in force so as to include surgeons who served in the Mexican war

under contract with commandants of regiments. By Mr. HENDRICKS: A bill to erect in the city of Indianapolis, State of Indiana, a United States courthouse and land office.

By Mr. DAVIS, of Indiana: A bill authorizing the Sec-

retary of War and the Secretary of the Treasury to sur-render to the State of Indiana certain bonds to the agent of the State of Indiana.

By Mr. WENTWORTH: A bill to provide for the erection of a suitable building for a post office, custom-house, land office, bonded warehouse, and United States court-

house in the city of Chicago.

By Mr. JAMES C. ALLEN: A bill to cede to the State of Illinois that part of the Cumberland road lying within the said State.

By Mr. LAMB: A bill granting lands to the States of

Louisiana, Mississippi, Arkansas, Missouri, and Iowa, and to Minnesota Territory, in aid of the construction of a railroad from New Orleans to St. Paul's.

Also, a bill to enlarge the powers and to increase the compensation of the district judge of the United States

for the district of Missouri.

By Mr. CARUTHERS: A bill granting to the State of Missouri a portion of the public domain to aid in the con-struction of the Iron Mountain railroad. By Mr. WARREN: A bill for the relief of John Gossett.

By Mr. MAXWELL: A bill to indemnify and reimburse the State of Florida for moneys paid in protecting her citizens against the Seminole Indians. By Mr. HENN: A bill for the more effectual improvement of the Des Moines and Rock River Rapids, in the

Mississippi River.
Also, a bill to divide the Northern and Missouri river land districts, in the State of Iowa.

By Mr. WELLS: A bill giving a right of way and

granting alternate sections of public lands to the State Wisconsin, and its grantees and assigns, to aid in the construction of a railroad from Milwaukee to Prairie du Chien, on the Mississippi river.

Also, a bill giving a right of way and granting alternate sections of certain public lands to the State of Wis-

consin, and its grantees and assigns, to further the construction of a railroad therein specified. Also, a bill giving a right of way and granting alternate sections of certain public lands to the States of Michigan and Wisconsin, and their grantees and assigns, to further the construction of certain railroads therein spe-

By Mr. LATHAM: A bill granting to the State of California a portion of the public lands to aid in the construction of a railroad from Sacramento City, by Auburn, to Nevada City, in said State.

Also, a bill for the extension of the pre-emption privilege in the State of California. Also, a bill to regulate the fees of the United States marshals in the State of California.

Also, a bill granting to the State of California a por-

tion of the public lands to aid in the construction of a railroad from Marysville to Benicia, in said State.

By Mr. McDOUGAL: A bill making a grant of land to the State of California in alternate sections to aid in the construction of certain railroads in said State. Also, a bill making a grant of land to the State of California in alternate sections to aid in the construction of

ornia in alternate sections of the sections of the section of the a railroad from San Francisco to San Jose. tract for a semi-monthly mail by steamships between San Francisco and some port in China.

Also, a bill to provide for the increase of the mail service between New York, San Francisco, and Oregon, and between New Orleans, San Francisco, and Oregon, and for other purposes.

Also, a bill to provide for the establishment of a line

of military posts and a common road; also authorizing the construction of a telegraph line and a railroad from the valley of the Mississippi to the bay of San Francisco; which was read twice.

Mr. McD. briefly alluded to the importance of the sub-

jects embraced in the bill, and moved that it be referred to a special committee of thirteen; which was agreed to. By Mr. LANE: A bill to increase the salaries of executive and judiciary officers in Oregon and New Also, a bill to improve the navigation of the Willam-

ette river, and to appropriate money to that purpose.

By Mr. RICE: A bill making further appropriations for continuing the construction of roads in the Territory of Minnesota, in accordance with the estimates made by the War Department. Also, a bill to purchase the Sioux half-breed reserva-

tion on Lake Pepin, in the Territory of Minnesota.

Also, a bill to establish additional land districts in the Territory of Minnesota. By Mr. EDMANDS: A bill for the relief of pensioners

under the act of February 3, 1853.

By Mr. SIMMONS: A bill concerning invalid pensions and regulating the time of their commencement The House then adjourned.

## Tuesday, January 17, 1854.

IN SENATE

The PRESIDENT of the Senate laid before the body communication from the Postmaster General, made in compliance with a resolution of the 9th instant, calling for a statement of the causes of the repeated detention of the Northern mails, particularly between the cities of New York and Washington; which was referred to the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads.

[The Postmaster General states that since the 1st of October last reports have been received of ten failures of the mails from New York to reach Philadelphia in time for connexion with the Baltimore trains, seven failures between Philadelphia and Baltimore, and one going from Washington to Baltimore. The causes are set forth as owing to the rails being slippery, obstructions on track, running off track, running slow to prevent collision, hours of starting being changed, snow storms, difficulty o quehanna river, breaking down, &c. states also that said Department has repeatedly urged upon the railroad company the propriety of establishing eight A. M. as the hour of departure for the mail train New York, with a train to leave Philadelphia at one P. M. ; in which case the arrival at Washington would be by 7 P. M. The company adheres to the hour of 9, and the result is that the great mass of passengers crowd the mail trains, causing delays, &c. It appears from this document that but few detentions occur northeast of New York, and few going from Washington to New York; and the Postmaster General adds: "Although receiving the highest rate of pay, (\$575 per mile,) the company be-tween New York and Philadelphia has refused to execute a contract, and is therefore virtually beyond the control of the Department. Having thus exhausted all the means in my power, I must leave it to the wisdom of Congress to apply the remedy."]
Also, a report from the Secretary of the Interior, com

municating a list of rejected applications for pensions, and recommending that the act of 3d February, 1853, to continue half-pay to certain widows and orphans, be

MEMORIALS AND PETITIONS.

The following memorials and petitions were presented and appropriately referred:

By Mr. SUMNER: From certain citizens of New York,

remonstrating against the appropriation of money for the purpose of indemnifying the owners of the slaves captured from the Spanish schooler Amistad. Also, from citizens of the same, asking that all acts of

Congress authorizing or supporting slavery may be re-By Mr. BRIGHT: From citizens of Allen county, Indiana, saking a donation of land to the States of Indiana, Illinois, and Iowa, for the construction of a railroad from

Fort Wayne, via Rochester, Lacon, New Boston, and Wa-

nell's, to Council Bluff city.

FRENCH SPOLIATIONS.

Mr. HAMLIN, from the Select Committee to which was referred the various memorials and the bill to provide for the ascertainment and satisfaction of claims of American citizens for spoliations committed by the French prior to the 31st day of April, 1801, reported back the bill with-out amendment, and recommended its passage.

SWORD TO MAJOR RINGGOLD'S NEAREST RELATIVE. Mr. JOHNSON, from the Committee on Military Affairs, to which was referred the joint resolution for the presen-tation of a sword to the nearest male relative of the late Major Samuel Ringgold, reported back the same, with a recommendation that it do not pass. This report says that the joint resolution is not consistent with the institutions or past legislation of this country; that honors and distinctions are not hereditary with us; and that excep-tion by special legislation should not be made; and there-fore, whilst acknowledging the meritorious services and gallant conduct of the late Major Ringgold, they report adversely.'

Mr. SHIELDS, from the Committee on Military Affairs, reported a bill for the relief of Allen G. Johnson and a bill for the relief of Adam D. Steuart, accompanied by a report in each case.

Also, from the same committee, made adverse reports

in writing on the memorials of A. H. Cole, of Wm. C. Easton, and of James D. Cobb.

Mr. SEBASTIAN, from the Committee on Indian Af-fairs, reported a bill for the relief of Wm. Senna Factor. Mr. FOOT, from the Committee on Pensions, made adverse reports in writing on the petitions of Benjamin Buron and of Catharine Clark.

Mr. ALLEN, from the Committee on Pensions, report-

ed a bill for the relief of Albert Hart and a bill for the relief of Lavinia Taylor, accompanied by a report.

Also, from the same committee, made adverse reports on the petitions of John Brown and of Orson Young. BILLS REPORTED AND PASSED.

Mr. WILLIAMS, from the Committee on Pensions, re-ported a bill for the relief of the heirs of Judith Worthen. Mr. HAMLIN adverted to the fact of the bill having already passed the Senate some five or six times, and asked the unanimous consent of the Senate that it might at once be considered and put on its passage.

No objection having been made, the bill was read

Mr. ADAMS, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, reported a bill for the relief of John Phagan, which he asked the unanimous consent of the Senate to consider: and, no objection being made, the bill was read a third time and passed.

Mr. WALKER, from the Committee on Public Lands, reported a bill to relinquish to the State of Wisconsin the lands reserved for salt springs therein, which he asked the unanimous consent of the Senate to consider and pass : and, no objection having been made, the bill was read a third time and passed.

On motion by Mr. MASON, it was ordered that the motion to print fifty thousand copies of the abstract of the seventh census be reconsidered.

BILLS INTRODUCED.

Bills of the following titles were read a first and second time and referred to appropriate committees:

By Mr. DOUGLAS: A bill to authorize the sale of reserved lands, and for other purposes.

By Mr. DODGE, of Iowa: A bill for the payment of

outstanding loan office and final settlement certificates issued for money loaned or for services or for supplies during the Revolutionary war. By Mr. NORRIS: A bill to incorporate the proprietors

of the Washington Cemetery.

By Mr. SHIELDS: A bill to aid the Territory of Minnesota in constructing a railroad for military, postal, and other purposes. following bills from the House of Representatives

were read a first and second time by their titles, and referred to appropriate committees:
An act to amend an act entitled "An act to divide the State of Arkansas into two judicial districts," approved

March 3, 1851. An act to secure the right of citizenship to children of citizens of the United States born out of the limits thereof. NEBRASKA AND SLAVERY.

Mr. SUMNER gave notice of his intention to offer an amendment to the Nebraska Territory bill when it should come up, which he wished to have printed. The amendment consists of a proviso. "that nothing herein contained shall be considered to abrogate or in any way countenance the act of March 6, 1820, relating to the admission of Missouri into the Union, &c., wherein it is expressly enacted that in all that territory ceded by France to the United States, under the name of Louisiana, which lies north of 36° 30' north latitude, not included within the limits of the State contemplated by this act, slavery or involuntary servitude, otherwise than in the punish ment of crimes wherein the party shall have been duly convicted, shall be and is hereby forever prohibited." BILLS PASSED.

On motion by Mr. GWIN, the Senate proceeded to con sider the bill for the relief of M. K. Warrington and C. St. John Chubb, executors of Capt. Lewis Warrington and others; which was read a third time and passed. On motion by Mr. WADE, the Senate proceeded to con-

bia, the question pending being an amendment, in the shape of a proviso, that the stockholders should be held responsible individually and collectively for the debts of said company.

Mr. PETTIT briefly addressed the Senate on the sub-

ject, contending that the amendment was in strict accordance with justice and safety to the employes of the company and persons furnishing it with materials; and con-cluded by demanding the yeas and mays on the amend-ment, which were ordered, and the amendment agreed to: YEAS-Messrs. Adams, Allen, Bright, Brodhead, Cass,

Chase, Dodge of Wisconsin, Dodge of Iowa, Douglas, Evans, Fitzpatrick, Gwin, Hamlin, Houston, Johnson, Jones of Iowa, Mallory, Norris, Pettit, Sebastian, Slidell, Stuart, Thomson, of New Jersey, Wade, Walker, Williams, and Wright—27. NAYS—Messrs. Badger, Bell, Benjamin, Cooper, Dawson, NAYS—Messrs. Badger, Bell, Benjamin, Cooper, Dawson, Everett, Fish, Foot, Jones of Tennessee, Mason, Pearce, Smith, Sumner, and Thompson of Kentucky-14.

The bill, as amended, was read a third time and passed. On motion by Mr. SLIDELL, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill confirming land claims in Louisiana in the Bastrop grant; which was read a third time and

On motion by Mr. BELL, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill for the relief of Joseph Gideon; which was read a third time and passed.

On motion by Mr. HAMLIN, the Senate proceeded to consider the joint resolution authorizing an increase of the force in the office of the Superintendent of Printing. Mr. H. called for the reading of a letter from the late Superintendent, Mr. Towers, whom he characterized as an excellent and indefatigable officer, and one quite as well and perhaps better acquainted with the business than any Senator could be.

The letter having been read, the resolution was read

third time and passed.
On motion by Mr. HAMLIN, the Senate proceeded to the consideration of Executive business; and, after some time spent therein, adjourned.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES. On motion of Mr. STANTON, of Kentucky, the credentials of Don Jose Manuel Gallegos were referred to the Committee of Elections.

RESCUERS OF THE SAN FRANCISCO. A message was received from the Senate announcing the passage by that body of a resolution for the appoint-ment of a joint committee to inquire and report the most appropriate expression of gratitude to the rescuers of the

On motion of Mr. CHANDLER, the resolution was concurred in, and the Chair authorized to appoint a committee of nine on the part of the House.

The House then resumed the consideration of Senate bill concerning the district courts of the United States in California, heretofore reported from the Committee on the Judiciary without amendment; when it was read the

third time and passed. Mr. STANTON, of Tennessee, from the Committee or the Judiciary, reported the following resolution, which was agreed to: Resolved, That the President of the United States be re

quested to inform this House what arrangements are now made to obtain buildings for the accommodation of the seve-ral circuit and district courts of the United States; what is the amount of rent or other expenses annually paid in each district; and what general provision in his judgment can be judiciously made to provide buildings for the greater convenience of said courts and their officers; also, whether any and what difficulties and embarrassments occur in the use of the State prisons by the officers of the United States courts, and what remedy can be provided therefor.

Mr. PARKER, from the same committee, to which was referred Senate bill explanatory of "An act for the relief of Benjamin S. Roberts," reported the same back with-Mr. P. briefly explained the bill, and asked that it be

ow put on its passage.

The bill was thereupon read the third time and passed. Mr. PARKER, from the same committee, submitt

the following report: on the Judiciary, to which was referred the resolution of this House, presented by Hon. Prester Ewing, of Kentdeky, proposing an amendment of the Constitution in the mode of electing the President and Vice President of the

United States, report:

That having had the benefit in committee of an oral and resting exposition of this important question by the hen-

orable mover of the resolution, they have bestowed upon the same much anxious consideration, and are satisfied that there is decided merit in the amendment as proposed. They are also satisfied that the conviction in the public mind is strong, and almost universal, that there are serious evils inseparably connected with the existing provisions in this behalf that may and should be remedied; and, believing that there is now a calm in the political elements most auspicious for the grave consideration of this subject, the committee deem it due the American people that Congress should propose to them some carefully considered and well-digested amendment in the premises. They therefore ask that their committee may be discharged from the further consideration of the subject, and recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

\*Resolved\*, (the Senate concurring\*,) That a select joint committee, composed of nine Representatives and five Senators, be appointed by the presiding officers of the two Houses respectively, to whom shall be referred the said resolution proposing an amendment of the Constitution in the mode of electing the President and Vice President of the United States, with instructions to take that matter and the subject means the subject mean

States, with instructions to take that matter and the subject generally into consideration, and to report upon the same in such manner as to them may seem most expedient.

Mr. McMULLEN moved that the report, with the accompanying resolution, be laid on the table and printed. He stated that he submitted this motion so as to preclude any debate upon the subject at this time, for he was not willing that the morning hour should be consumed by discussion. His object was to economize the time of th

Mr. PARKER presumed that there could be no necessity for this matter standing over. It was simply a ques-tion of inquiry, one which he believed had elicited the attention of almost every American citizen. There was not a newspaper in the land that did not condemn the present mode of electing the President and Vice President Mr. EWING said that the course proposed by the Ju-diciary Committee was not a suggestion of his. When he introduced this resolution he had it referred to that committee in preference to sending it to a select committee and contrary to the advice of gentlemen in the House who professed to take some interest in the movement. He had it referred to the Committee on the Judiciary because he believed that by an explanation of the pur poses and the proper claims of the change, that commit tee or any other committee would see the importance at least of the proposed reform, and the propriety of an in-quiry into the matter. He desired the opinion of that minently respectable committee on the question, believ ing that they could bring the attention of the House and country to it in a degree which he himself could not secure. He therefore desired that they should act upon it. He went before them, and by the indulgence of no ordi nary degree of kindness and courtesy on their part, for which he took great pleasure in making his acknowledgments, he was allowed to explain the objects of the proposed change, and they agreed to report in favor of it; but subsequently, of their own accord, they concluded that perhaps it would be more proper to make the report which they had this morning submitted to the House. It was therefore their own proposition to refer this question to a joint select committee. If, in intending to  $ad_1$  vance the purpose he had in view, the Judiciary Committee had pursued such a course as would bring to a pre mature end all inquiry in regard to this matter-for that would be the effect of the inconsiderate motion of the gentleman from Virginia, should it prevail-he (Mr. E. should regret, and he was sure the committee would also regret, that they had not attained the purpose they had in view in making the report now before the House. If they had made it as he desired and thought best it should be made, perhaps it would not have been brought to as premature an end. He hoped, however, the gentleman

from Virginia would not insist on his motion.

Mr. McMULLEN replied that the gentleman had made a mistake in saying that he was acting prematurely in the matter. For one he was prepared to act upon this subject now; and if it was the pleasure of the House now to consider it, he should not persist in his motion. For the purpose of testing the sense of the House, he moved to recommit the report to the Committee on the Judicia ry, and demanded the previous question. Pending which (the morning hour having expired)-

DEFICIENCY BILL-NEW YORK POLITICS. The committee then proceeded to consider the bill to supply deficiencies in appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1854.

Mr. WALSH addressed the committee in regard to th position occupied by the "Hards" of New York. He declared that the misrepresentations which had been so perseveringly circulated against their motives, their acts, their present position, and their proudest and boldest men had been so flagrant, so false, and so numerous that he for one could no longer remain passive, and re frain from doing what he could to rescue truth from the deadly embrace of this miserable sophistry. For the President of the United States he entertained personally a very high regard, for he was a very pleasing, kind, an agreeable man—what they would call in New York, in common parlance, among the "rounders," a "glubber. The President was what the ladies would term a very po lite, affable, and pleasant gentleman, far more so, he was afraid, than would ever be his (Mr. W.'s) lot. He had always treated him (Mr. W.) with marked kindness and with something of confidence; but, since he had ascertained that this was the President's disposition towards every body, he felt himself compelled to take off an extremely heavy discount from his apparent confidence.

Mr. W. then briefly reviewed the history of political affairs in New York, and referred to the platform of the to the Presi dency. He said that when Gen. Pierce accepted that no mination he stated distinctly and emphatically that he did so with the accompanying resolutions; not because they were the condition of the nomination, but because they were in strict keeping with every act of his past life. He wished to know if this declaration had been carried out in his appointments to office? He denied that this opposition came from disappointed office-seekers, and de clared that if gentlemen supposed there was any disposition on the part of the Demecracy of the State of New York to make war upon the Administration, they were wrong in entertaining such an impression. He then condemned the Administration for interfering

in the local elections of the State of New York, and gave a definition of "Hards" and "Softs" What he inquired are the "Hards?" The best illustration of any thing hard was a diamond, and it was a fair illustration of the purity and the hardness of that section of the New York Democracy. They all knew what "soft" meant. A man "soft" in morals was open to any rascality. A man "soft" in politics was pretty much the same. [Laugh-They all knew that when a man was said to in the head, or had a "soft" spot in his head, it meant intellectually. A "Soft" was simply an individ-ual whose morals in politics was of a broad character; who was ready to commit himself to any form that promised to bring profit.

Mr. SMITH, of Alabama, said that as this discussion had

been started, he would ask the gentleman from New York (Mr. Walsh) to give an explanation—that it might go out to the country with the gentleman's speech or his own, and that the committee and the people throughout the Union might understand the matter—of the difference nate to take up the bill and put it on its passage; and, between the New York "Hards" and the New York no objection having been made, the bill was considered

Mr. WALSH. It is the difference between an honest man and a rogue.

[Applause and laughter succeeded this answer, and it was some minutes before the Chair could restore order.

The confusion having subsided—]
Mr. SMITH said that he must confess that the reply of the gentleman was a little equivocal. He did not know which the gentleman intended as the rogue, the "Hards" or the "Softs."

Mr. WALSH. That must be ascribed to the gentleman's understanding.

Mr. SMITH. Well, it is not a matter of very much imer exist, its exercise would be expedient, made an ad-

portance. I think it is time that the Democracy of the country understood something about this subject, and as , being a Democrat, as I claim to be, really desire to be informed upon this distinction as between the "Hards" and "Softs," I expected to hear from the gentleman a sincere answer; but the response to my inquiry being characteristic, of course he is excusable for not explain ing further. Mr. WALSH. I ask the gentleman to explain what he

means by "characteristic."

Mr. SMITH. I mean broad, blunt, and not always sa tisfactory. [Laughter.] Nothing disrespectful, I assure the gentleman. Mr. CUTTING desired to inform the gentleman as to the difference between the "Hards" and

Mr. SMITH said that he expected to explain that himself before he should take his seat.

Mr. WALSH (interrupting) explained that the "Soft" was a man who never done any thing openly against the Democratic party, but was for his own personal advance-ment and aggrandizement, always following that course

which would secure him the spoils.

Mr. SMITH, resuming, said that he must confess that when this controversy first began his sympathies were with the "Hards," as he understood them. He must, however, admit that upon a clear examination of this whole question he had come to the belief that the whole thing was too sectional, and, he might say, too fractional to disturb the harmony of the Democratic party throughout the country. Now, to be a little playful, he proposed to refer the gentlemen from New York to the history of Gulliver's adventures in Lilliputia, to show the smallness of this political quarrel, and that, however

much it might disturb the party within that State, it ought not to disturb the party out of its limits. He was sure that many gentlemen would remember that when Gulliver went into Lilliputia he found that distinguished people in a great state of turmoil, and, very na-turally inquired into its cause. He had the history before him, and, were it not so long, he would read an extract No objection havin from it to elucidate the meaning of the word "Hard" third time and passed.

orable mover of the resolution, they have bestowed upon the and the word "Soft." Well, Guiliver was informed that the State was in a great turmoil upon this question. One party contended that, according to an old and ancient party contended that, according to an old and ancient direction of the Government, the people were bound to break their eggs upon the small end, while another party declared that upon a more ancient law than that, derived from custom, the people had a right to break their eggs upon the big end. This controversy was called the "endium" controversy—the "big-endium" and "little-endium" and "little-endium" controversy—the "big-endium" and "little-endium" and "little-endiu dium" controversy. It was said in that history that some eleven hundred thousand persons fell because they would not relinquish the right of breaking their eggs upon the small point. It struck him that the question between the New York Democracy was simply this: They desired to stone the President to death, and the question was whether they should do this with hard eggs or soft eggs. This was about the whole of it. Mr. S. then yielded to

Mr. CUTTING, who remarked that there was a period, very recent in the history of this country, when gentle-men from the South did not stop to inquire who at the North stood by them, through good repute and through bad, at a time when a storm swept over the whole North such as had never been seen—who were true to the con-stitutional rights of the States, and true to themselves as the South was to itself. [Great and long-continued ap-

Was there any gentleman from any Southern State who then rose in his place for the purpose of reading Gulli-ver's travels as a lecture to the North; for the purpose of disparaging those men who, under circumstances that were enough to quail the stoutest heart, stood by the equal rights of the States, and insisted that the people of each State and of each Territory should do what they themselves were doing at the North—govern themselves in their own way, according to their own best judgment? And now, in this short space of time, gentlemen from the South had already forgotten what that party was, and its principles, who stood by them and nailed their colors to the mast at a time when the ship of State appeared to be upon the point of sinking! It had already escaped their recollection who and what they were. What they did was not for the purpose of currying favor with the South. They advocated the principles upon which they stood, not for the purpose of gaining favor any where, but simply because those principles were the principles of State rights upon which their party had always stood, which they adocated then as they stood by them now.

Mr. C. then reviewed in detail and at some length the his-

tory of the "Hards" and "Softs," and narrated the lead-ing acts of each branch which caused their separation. Mr. SMITH then resumed his remarks, but before proceeding to any extent gave way to a motion that the

Committee rise; which being agreed to—
The Committee rose and reported its action to the House Mr. COBB moved to reconsider the vote by which the House yesterday referred to a select committee of thir-teen the bill introduced by Mr. McDougal to provide for the establishment of a line of military posts and a common road; also authorizing the construction of a telegraph line and a railroad from the valley of the Mississippi to the The motion was entered, to be considered at some fu-

ture day. 'The question then being on the engrossment of the bills reported by the Committee of the Whole-The House adjourned.

## WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 18, 1854. IN SENATE.

The following memorials and petitions were presented and appropriately referred: By Mr. FISH: From inspectors of customs of the port of New York, asking an increase of compensation. They set forth that such a rate of pay should be given to inspectors as would invite, rather than prohibit, men of character and families from that branch of service. Also, from Matthew Walsh and other citizens of New

in steamers between Brooklyn and certain ports in By Mr. COOPER: From citizens of Philadelphia, in

favor of cheap ocean postage.

By Mr. SHIELDS: From John Baptiste Beaubien, of Illinois, asking compensation for the loss of certain lands in the city of Chicago, in said State.

Also, from M. Lovell, of the army, asking that compensation allowed officers of the army while attending courts

martial may be increased.

By Mr. HOUSTON: From E. J. McLane, asking comcensation for his services in seizing and detaining horses and mules smuggled into the United States from Mexico. By Mr. JONES, of Tennessee: From the Mayor and Aldermen of the city of Memphis, in Tennessee, asking the establishment of a marine hospital at that place. By Mr. JOHNSON: From Wm. C. Jones, asking comensation for services as an officer in the Florida war, as ieutenant of mounted men on extra duty for a period of

By Mr. PEARCE: From John McCutchen, asking com pensation for the performance of clerical services in the office of Second Comptroller while a messenger in that

By Mr. STUART: From citizens of Muskegon, Michigan, asking the establishment of a mail route from Mill Point to Croton, in that State. By Mr. ADAMS: From Clements Bryan, asking indemnity for losses occasioned by the rescinding of a con- not for similar improvements in the old States, through

tract for furnishing supplies. A large mass of documents were taken from the files on motion of Senators, and again referred to appropriate committees.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES.

By Mr. BUTLER, from the Committee on the Judi-ciary: A bill for the relief of John G. Camp. Also, from the same committee, asking to be discharged from the further consideration of the memorial of Benj. S. Roberts, and that it be referred to the Committee on Military Affairs. Also, from the same committee, asking to be discharged

from the further consideration of the memorial and pa pers of Caleb Green. Also, from the same committee, a bill for the relief of Lewis H. Hemstead. Also, from the same committee, a bill for the relief of the legal representatives of Thomas Chapman, collector of the port of Georgetown, in the State of South Carolina.

By Mr. GWIN, from the Committee on Naval Affairs: bill for the relief of Purser T. B. McBlair. Also, from the same committee, a bill for the compensation of Jas. W. Low and others for the capture of the private-armed British schooner Ann during the last war with Great Britain.

Mr. SHIELDS, from the Committee on Military Affairs, to which was referred the bill from the House of Representatives for the relief of Lewis B. Willis, late a paymaster in the army of the United States, reported back the same without amendment, and recommended its

passage.
Mr. MASON asked the unanimous consent of the Seand passed. By Mr. BRODHEAD, from the Committee of Claims

A bill for the relief of Richard Fitzpatrick, accompanied Also, from the same committee, a bill for the relief of

Don B. Juan Domeroq, a Spanish subject.

By Mr. HAMLIN, from the Committee on Commerce: An adverse report on the memorial of Francis Barnes.

Mr. PETTIT, from the Committee on the Judiciary to which had been referred the resolution directing an inquiry into the constitutional power to make provision for referring causes instituted according to the course of the common law to referees, and whether, if such pow-

Also, from the same committee, asking to be discharge ed from the further consideration of the memorial of Amos and Juo. E. Kendall; which was agreed to.

RESOLUTION.

Mr. FITZPATRICK submitted a resolution directing the Committee on the Judiciary to inquire into the expediency of so amending the law of 26th February, 1853, relating to fees &c., as to increase the compensation of the marshals of the southern and middle division of Alabama, and of that of the clerk of the district court at Montgomery, Alabama.
Several Senarous moved to amend the resolution so as

to include the officers of their own States, and a general discussion ensued, in which Messrs. GWIN, SEBASTIAN, FITZPATRICK, CHASE, MASON, BUTLER, BAYARD, BRIGHT, BADGER, and others participated, when the resolution was amended to read as follows, and in that form adopted; Resolved, That the Judiciary Committee be instructed t

inquire into the expediency of so amending the act of Congress approved 26th February, 1853, entitled an act to regulate the tees and costs to be allowed clerks, marshals, and attorneys of the circuit and district courts of the United States, to increase the compensation of the marshal of the southern and middle division of Alabama, and also the compensation of the clerk of the district court of the United States at the city of Montgomery, Alabama; and also so as to in-crease the compensation of the clerks, marshals, and attorneys in the several judicial districts of the United States; and that the committee inquire into the expediency of abolishing the tax fee to attorneys in States where no tax fee is allowed by

Mr. EVERETT, in pursuance of notice, introduced a had passed the Senate unanimously on a previous occasion, but was lost in the other Itouse for want of time.

No objection having been made, the bill was read a

PENNSYLVANIA. Mr. COOPER introduced a bill granting land to the State of Pennsylvania to aid in the construction of the Sunbury and Eric Railroad, to establish and endow a normal school for the gratuitous education of female teachers,

and for other purposes.

This bill (said Mr. C.) grants to the State of Pennsylvania two millions three hundred and eighty thousand six hundred acres of the public lands of the United States, one-half of which is to be appropriated to aid in the construction of the Sunbury and Eric Railroad, a work designed to connect the Atlantic Ocean with the Western Lakes by route shorter by nearly one hundred miles, and with lighter grades, than any other road hitherto constructed between the waters of the lakes and those of the ocean. This road is of as much national importance as any other to which the Government has ever lent its aid—connecting, as I have already stated, Philadelphia with Erie and the Atlantic with the lakes. The national character of this work has been repeatedly recognised by officers con nected with the Topographical Bureau. Col. Abert, in his report to the Secretary of War, on the 6th of Novem-ber, 1845, says: "This raifroad will furnish a communication between Erie and Philadelphia, and cannot of itself fail to give to the harbors of Erie considerations

of great national importance."

The bill next provides that so much of the remaining alf of the lands granted to the State of Pennsylvania as shall be necessary for the purpose shall be appropriated by the Legislature of the State in establishing and en-dowing a normal school, at some suitable place, for the gratuitous education of female teachers; and the residue, if any, to be applied in aid of such works of internal improvement as the Legislature may think proper.

Whatever may have been formerly thought of granting lands to aid in the construction of works of internal im-provement within the States, the policy of such grants has been recognised by years of practice, and the appro-priation of many millions of acres of the public lands. The lands granted for this purpose, it is true, have been generally contiguous to the roads they were intended to aid, and always within the limits of the States through which the roads were located. But, although within the States, these lands were as much the property of the Uni-ted States as if they had been outside of the State boundaries; and the members of the corporations to which they have been granted are frequently the residents of other States than those through which the improvements

I am aware, Mr. President, that a distinction has been attempted to be drawn in favor of the grants to improve ments in the new States; but this distinction has no foundation, either in justice or equity. The distinction attempted to be drawn consists of the alleged fact, that the United States not only lose nothing by granting, as they do, the alternate sections for purposes of improve-ment within the States, but that, on the contrary, they become gainers by the increased facility of selling the reserved sections, and the appreciation which takes place in their price. This is plausible, but there is something sophistical in the argument. If these improvements, for whose benefit the lands are granted, were constructed by he companies which own them, from their own resources, the lands contiguous to them would rise in price, and trade and commerce receive all the stimulating effects that are erroneously supposed to be the result of the Gov-

ernment grants. metimes said that works of internal improve ment in the new States would stand still for want of means to carry them on unless Government should aid them with grants of land, such as many of them have received. It is, no doubt, in a measure true that some of these improvements might not have been constructed but for the aid afforded by Government. But how many works of internal improvement in the old States have been deferred for want of adequate means to carry them on? Government aid is as necessary in the old States as in the new ones; for it is not true, as we are some-Also, from Matthew Walsh and other citizens of New York, asking that a contract may be made with Christian Hansen for the transportation of the United States mails

Almost all the new States are in the enjoyment of unexampled prosperity, possessing resources in the fertility of their soil which are unequalled in the older States. But this is not all. Even independently of the grants of land which they have received from the Government, the new States have, in most instances, made the capital of the citizens of the old States tributary to their enterprises of internal improvement. Scarcely one of the great improvements in the Western States but has enlisted the aid of Eastern capitalists in its construction. The effect of these grants is, therefore, to swell the revenues of the stockholders in our Eastern cities, who are largely interested in most of these enterprises.

But to return to the argument, that a distinction fa vorable to the new States exists in the fact that the Government is fully indemnified for the lands granted to them by the enhanced price of the reserved sections. Let this be conceded, and what does it amount to? The Let this be conceded, and what does it amount to? The lands granted are for that reason none the less a gift to the companies engaged in making the improvements; and such gift is made at the expense of the purchasers of the lands, who are thereby compelled to pay a double price for them. These improvements, it is true, enhance both the lands and their products by opening a cheaper road to better markets; but this effect is produced by relroads and canals in the old States as well as the new. What would be the advantages of the resirenced and and What would be the advantages of the railroads and cal nals of Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, and other new States, in comparison with what they are, were it

the cities on the sea-board? The railroads and canals of New York, Pennsylvania and Massachusetts are scarcely less productive of benefit to the people of the States which I have mentioned than to the people of the States through which they pass. And will it be pretended that the improvements in the old States do less to promote the prosperity and increase the wealth, power, and security of the whole country not, the argument that the United States are more benefited by a grant of lands to the new States than to the old

ones is fallacious. The truth is, when rightly told, that the doubling of the price of the alternate sections, as is now the practice, is a tax upon the people of the country for the benefit of the railroad corporations, which are the grantees of the lands. It is time that this fallacy should be exploded; and the people made to understand that these grants which the clever ingenuity of our Western friends has made them believe was a benefit to the country, is, when rightly understood, a tax upon themselves.

there not something in this policy inconsistent with the idea, now so prevalent in the country, that it is the duty of Congress to provide free farms for the people? There is no sort of harmony be-tween the legislation which increases the price of one portion of the public lands whilst it proposes to make gratuitous concessions of another.

I have no objection whatever to grant lands to aid in making improvements calculated to increase the wealth. power, and prosperity of the country. But while we give lands to railroads, let us not sell them to the people at a double price. Let us also be just. Concede as much to the new States as you please; but, in doing so, do not re-fuse to deal with equal liberality to the old ones, at the expense of whose blood and treasure the lands you are giving away were acquired.

The other purpose for which the proposed grant is made is one of such obvious public utility as to need no argument to enforce it. It is, as I have stated already o establish and endow a school for the gratuitous educa ion of female teachers. The merit of this suggestion belongs to an accomplished lady, Mrs. Sarah J. Hale, and is one which I am sure will commend itself to every liberal and patriotic mind. When the bill comes before the Senate for its action, I will use my privilege as a Senator

n pointing out its advantages at length.
One word more, and I have done. My object in fixing upon the number of acres which the bill proposes to grant was, that, if other States should at any time think proper to follow the example of Pennsylvania, there might be criterion for the number of acres found in the number of their population at the time the census of 1850 was taken. The number of acres mentioned in the bill was the num ber of people in the State in 1850.

bill was read a first and second time by unanimou The Mr. COOPER. I move that it be referred to the Comnittee on Public Lands.

WADE. Mr. President, I do not rise for the purpose of opposing the reference of this bill, but I cannot help, at this time, observing that it comes with exceedingy bad grace from the State of Pennsylvania to ask for donation of lands for the purpose of constructing railroads in that State, while it is an open and notorious fact, known I suppose to every body, that she stands now in open hostility to any communication across her for the purpose of railroad communication. She is entirely opposed to that; her people are in hostility to the General Government, disobeying the decrees of the Federal courts, imprisoning the marshals sent to execute the process of those courts, burning the bridges of the railroad company, tearing up their railroads for some three or four weeks succession, showing a disposition to interrupt all commu-nication between the East and West across that great thoroughfare. I suppose, sir, that it is a fact that there is obstructed on its way to market there, by reason of that hostility, hundreds of thousands of dollars worth, and I do not know but millions, of perishable property that will probably be lost in consequence of this resist-ance to the laws of the Government. I say then, sir, that it comes with an ill-grace from that State to call on the General Government to grant lands for her benefit, whilst her people stand out in open hostility to all the rest of the States. They ought not to do it: they eight not to ask for the grant until, at all events, they have put down the rioters: and they have not, in my judgment, shown

I believe there is power in the State to quell the if it would; but the last information which we have acceived on the subject, this morning, is that, after the road had been rebuilt, it has been destroyed again.

Now, Mr. President, I do not know that the General Government can do any thing on this subject; but I do know that something ought to be done, and I take the occasion merely to give notice that such is the condition in which we found Pennsylvania with the General Government. We have found her Governor writing to account the condition of the condition of the condition with them; and we have reason to believe that they are strongly backed by other portions of the State and the with them; and we have reason to believe that they are strongly backed by other portions of the State and by Philadelphia, which is asking, for the benefit of the great road, a grant of land to construct it, while the State itself will not permit a railroad across it to anyther market. I have no opposition to the reference of the bill, only I wish to connect with the grant a condition that Pennsylvania shall let her railroads be used for the proposition of the prop

purposes for which they are constructed.

Mr. COOPER. Mr. President, I have one word to see Mr. COOPER. Mr. President, I have one word to say in reply to my honorable friend from Ohio. He is a line-yer, and I believe, indeed I am sure from what I have seen here, a very good one. If, therefore, it were much that a very insignificant portion of our nearly three millions of people have been engaged in violating the law, it would be no reason at all why justice should not be disase to the other portion. But, sir, there is an unwritten history in relation to the transactions at Erie; and although I deprecate violence at all times, although I would always have the people of the State which I represent how submissively to the laws, I say that there are sometimus provocations that would stir the stagmant blood even in the hearts of cowards. The gentleman's constitutions the hearts of cowards. The gentleman's constitutions have used provocations which were well calculated as produce the very scenes of violence which have taken place there; and, sir, when this unwritten history connect to be published, it will be found, in all probability, that the aggressions and wrongs at Erie are not the aggres-

the aggressions and wrongs at Erie are not the aggressions and wrongs of the people of Erie.

In saying this, I repeat that I wish never to encourage a spirit that sets the laws of the country at defiance; but I feel bound to say this much in justice to my constitutions; and I shall further take another and more fating opportunity than the present to show at least when the truth lies, where the aggression came from, and that if there is wrong on the one side, there has been outraged to provoke it.

Mr. WADE. I have only one word to say in reply the Mr. WADE. I have only one word to say in remit the gentleman. He says that the aggressions have home provoked by outrages on the part of the railroad companies. I have only to say on that subject that the quantion of these controversies has been adjudicated upon sort adjusted by the courts of Pennsylvania, which have found the gentleman at fault; and the ricters were acting in open opposition to the mandates of the Federal counts, and also of the courts of the State; therefore it does not come very well from the Senator to say that the comments. come very well from the Senator to say that the companies were altogether in the wrong. The presumption certainly ought to be the other way, insamuch thave the judgments of the courts upon their side.

This has not been a new thing in Pennsylvania. Frumthe time of the whiskey insurrection onward, from the western part of the State to the eastern part, insurrections have not been very unusual. But I am not guing into that subject now. I only want this thing looked into, so that the grants of land shall contain the condition that future.

The motion to refer the bill to the Committee on Pri lic Lands was agreed to.

Mr. PETTIT called for the special order, being the xeport of the Committee on the Judiciary confirming the right of Mr. PHELPS, of Vermont, to his seat in the

Mr. P. moved that the further consideration of the same Mr. P. moved that the further consideration of the same be postponed until Wednesday next; which, after a twist discussion, was agreed to.

On motion by Mr. CHASE, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill to divide the district of Ohio into two judicial districts, and for other purposes; when the bill, as amended by the Committee on the Judiciary, was read a third time and passed.

On motion by Mr. SHIELDS, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill to reimburse the Common Coursel of New York city expenditures made for the first regiment of New York volunteers; and the bill was read a third time and passed.

on motion by Mr. HAMLIN, the Senate processed to consider the bill for the relief of Charles Cooper & Co., and the bill for the relief of James Dunning; and they

were severally read a third time and passed. were severally read a third time and passed.
On motion by Mr. FOOT, the Senate proceeded to comsider the bill for the relief of Rebecca Freeman, send it was read a third time and passed.

On motion by Mr. MALLORY, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill to provide for the establishment of a marrine hospital at St. Mark's, in the State of Fiorids; and

On motion, the Senate adjourned. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

t was read a third time and passed.

The following gentlemen have been appointed the select committee on the part of the House "to inquire said report in what form the acknowledgment of Congress and the gratitude of the nation may be most appropr ly expressed to those benevolent and courageout who, under Providence, were the means of rescuing from death so many citizens of this Republic:" Mr. CHARGE lvania · Mr Me Mr. Cutting, of New York; Mr. PRATT, of Connect Mr. HUNT, of Louisiana; Mr. VANSANT, of Maryland: Mr. Eddy, of Indiana; Mr. Seward, of Georgia; made

Mr. CROCKER, of Massachusetts.
Mr. COBB withdrew the motion made by him yesters. day to reconsider the vote by which the House on Man-day referred to a select committee of thirteen the bill imtroduced by Mr. McDougan to provide for the establishment of a line of military posts and a common readules, authorizing the construction of a telegraph line and a railroad from the valley of the Mississippi to the Page of San Francisco. He stated that he had intended to address the House on this subject, but finding that the motion to reconsider in this instance was not debutable he had determined to withdraw it. Besides, he had wished to suggest to the House that the number of the committee, as at present constituted, was not sufficient and that it should be composed of at least one member from each State; but, his mo course he could not express his views on this question.

The SPEAKER laid before the House a communication from the Treasury Department, transmitting statements of accounts which remained due more than three years prior to the 1st day of July, 1853, &c. Referred to the themmittee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed.

Also, a communication from the Interior Department transmitting a list of persons who have made applications for pensions, and who ought, in his opinion, to be placed on the pension roll. Referred to the Committee on Revolutionary Pensions. Also, a communication from the Superintendent of the Public Printing, transmitting estimates for deficiencies in

appropriations for the expenses of his office for the years ling the 30th June, 1854. Referred to the Com of Ways and Means and ordered to be printed. MODE OF ELECTING PRESIDENT AND VICE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. The House then resumed the consideration of the fal-

lowing resolution; yesterday reported from the Commit-tee on the Judiciary, the question being on the motiva of Mr. McMullen that it be recommitted: Resolved, That a select committee, composed of nine asse ed by the Speaker to join such committee as may be appropried by the Speaker to join such committee as may be appropried by the Senate, to whom shall be referred the resolution of the House proposing an amendment of the Constitution to the mode of electing the President and Vice President of the

United States, with instructions to take that matter and the subject generally into consideration, and to report upon sine same in such manner as to them may seem most expedients. Mr. McMULLEN withdrew the motion to recomm stating that when he submitted it he was laboring under a mistake as to the character of the resolution. He had no objection whatever to its adoption, and demanded the

previous question : which was seconded. Mr. DEAN, remarking that he was opposed to the range lution, moved that it be laid on the table; which metion was negatived. The resolution was then adopted.

Mr. SMITH, of Virginia, asked consent to submit the Resolved, That the Committee on the Judiciary be instruct ed to inquire into the propriety of providing by law for the holding of semi-annual terms of the Federal Courts for the eastern district of Virginia and for the city of Alexandra hereafter, and that the committee report by bill or otherwise.

Mr. DAVIS, of Indiana, objected.

REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES. Mr. SEYMOUR, from the Committee on the Judiciary, made an adverse report on the petition of Thos. Thody. Also, from the same committee, reported a bill for the relief of Lieut. John E. Bispham; which was read twice

and committed. Also, in pursuance of notice, introduced a bill in addition to "An act to establish the judicial courts of the United States;" which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. BISSELL, from the Committee on Military

fairs, reported a bill to promote the efficiency of the army by retiring disabled officers; which was read twisten SUFFERERS ON THE SAN FRANCISCO.

Mr. B. also, from the same committee, to which was referred the bill for the relief of the United States troups who were sufferers by the recent disaster of the stea ship San Francisco, reported the same back with